



FACT SHEET

Southern Pompano

Trachinotus africanus

Family: Carangidae

Other common names: African pompano, Suidelike pompano

Description

Robust deep body with a distinctive rounded head and a blunt nose. Overall silvery-olive colour with yellow fins and the tail is strongly forked. Lacks scutes on the lateral line.

Distribution

Found in coastal areas throughout the Indian Ocean from western Indonesia, Oman, Gulf of Aden to the east coast of Africa. Occurs locally between Knysna and southern Mozambique but seldom caught south of KwaZulu-Natal.

Habitat

Found in the surf-zone along sandy beaches but usually in close association with surf-zone reefs or rocky outcrops. Juveniles make use of sheltered bays as nursery areas, particularly along Durban's beachfront and may sometimes enter estuaries.

Feeding

Primarily rock mussels but also sand mussels, sand dollars, crabs and mole crabs. These invertebrates are crushed in the strong pharyngeal plates in the gullet (throat) as the teeth are very small and feeble.

Movement

Little known, tag-recapture data suggests that adults may be fairly wide ranging. A southward movement into KwaZulu-Natal waters occurs during the summer months.

Reproduction

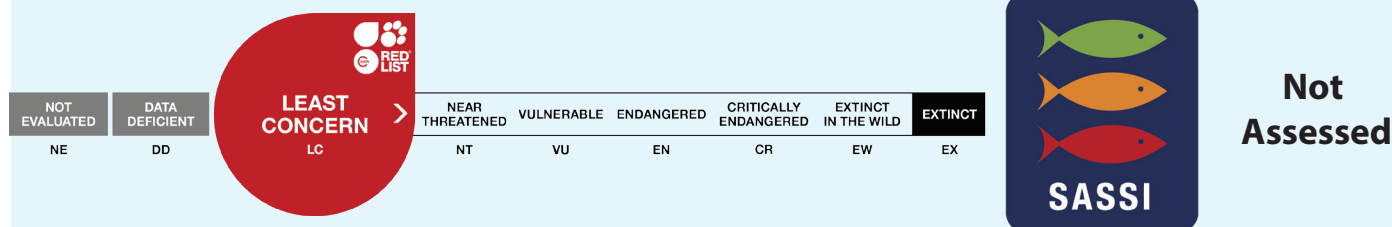
Little is known but they are believed to mature at an age of about 3 years. Spawning takes place in spring along the northern KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique coasts.

Age and growth

They reach a maximum length of 92 cm total length and a weight of 14 kg, although fish in captivity have been known to reach up to 25 kg. They have not been aged but have been recorded living in Durban's uShaka Sea World for over 15 years.

Current status

Their status has not been assessed in South African waters. This species has been evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List (2017).
South African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI) List:
Not assessed.



Capture

Caught primarily by shore anglers and spearfishers along the KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique coast, juveniles sometimes taken as a bycatch in the beach seine fishery in Durban. Southern pompano put up a strong fight on light tackle and are partial to baits such as mussels, crabs and mole crabs.

Current recreational fishing regulations

Daily bag limit: 5 per person per day.
Minimum size limit: None
Closed Season: None
Other regulations: No sale recreational species
Marine protected areas (MPAs): Southern pompano receive protection from fishing in some no-take MPAs along the east coast of South Africa such as within the iSimangaliso MPA.

Reference

Information from the ORI Fish App. www.saambr.org.za



INCORPORATING

